

*TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.*

Curriculum Vitae  
Of  
Donald D. Berment  
From  
1956—2007.

*(51 Years Of Nation Building Effort)*

YOURS IN NATURAL GROWTH ARCHITECTURE.

# *To Whom It May Concern.*

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1. Education And Work Experiences  
Up To November 1994 Including My  
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Of Twenty (20) Years.

2 Application Of Research Project  
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*Men Against Violence Against Women*  
*( M.A.V.A.W )*

### *Authors' Note :-*

*This Profession Of Choice And Soul Has Slipped Off The Path For Genuine Development.  
Many Are Being Overwhelmed By The Glory Of Accreditation And The Love For  
Beautiful Drawings And Buildings, A Small Part Of The Whole Concept That Is  
“SERVICE TO HUMANITY”, In This Discipline, Shaping Space To Benefit Mankind.  
The Following Pages Trace A Long, Difficult, Continuous Effort To Make A Positive  
Contribution To The Art That Is Architecture.*

Signed.....DONALD BERMENT, HOUSING SPECIALIST/NGA.

**YOURS IN NATURAL GROWTH ARCHITECTURE.**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.****OVERVIEW.**

**MY PRIMARY EDUCATION** was received at Mucurapo Boys R.C. School, George Cabral Street, St. James, Port of Spain, up to Fifth Standard in 1960.

**MY SECONDARY EDUCATION** was received at St. James Secondary School, Panka Street, St. James, **Full Time** —Polythentic Institute, Ethel Street, St. James, **Part Time** and Tranquility Government School, Victoria Avenue, Woodbrook, **Part Time**, all in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

**MY TECHNICAL EDUCATION** was received at John s. Donaldson Technical Institute, Wrightson Road, Port of Spain, with their Draughtsmanship and Junior Builders Programmes, **Part Time**.

**MY TERTIARY EDUCATION** was received from the International Correspondence School, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. with their Architecture and Interior Design Courses, **Final Exams Not Taken**.

**MY RESEARCH/PRACTICE** evolving from the Study Titled “*The Social Effects Of And Construction Methods Employed In Community Lifestyles And Low Cost Housing, Relevant To Modern Day Techniques, With An Accent On Tropical Architecture*”, also includes a “Pioneering Thrust”, to focus on *Natural Growth Architecture*, which in my view, is the Architecture of Reality and our Future, giving emphasis to making a positive contribution to the Art of Architecture as a Service to Mankind and not on becoming an Architect. Said research/practice involving Social Activism, Design Solutions, Application of Corrective Methodologies and Construction Supervision.

**MY OTHER WORK EXPERIENCES** include: -

1. Lecturing for the University of the West Indies, School of Continuing Studies (formerly Extra Mural Studies Unit) and The Youth and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP), on the subject, Interior Design and Decoration.

Overview continues on next page.

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**DESIGN****DEVELOP****DELIVER.**

2. Draughtsmanship for the National Housing Authority (during which time I supervised some Construction Projects), George Jodhan Architect and Mence and Moore Architects.
3. Twenty Six (26) years of Home Management, 1974 to date, which included the: foll: -
  - i.) Budgeting and Purchasing.
  - ii.) Food Preparation.
  - iii.) Home Maintenance and Repair.
  - iv.) Kitchen Garden Management.
  - v.) Garment and Soft Furnishing Repair and Construction.
  - vi.) Child Care and Supervision.
4. Private Investigation for individuals and organizations, using a Bailiff's Licence, which included Watch Group service to the Police.
5. Consultancy and Volunteer Efforts with and for various individuals and organizations the most Urban being of Seven (7) years duration with the Uptown Carnival Improvement Committee, developing a Dual Purpose Facility, called "MM '94 BEHIND THE BRIDGE PROJECT".
6. Legal Training, eight (8) years duration, practicing in our local Courts, up to Appeal Court level, as a Litigant, successfully.

FURTHER EDUCATION was obtained through a number of Short Courses, some Private and Government sponsored and some Home Study types: -

**P R I V A T E   S P O N S O R E D .**

Educare Limited	Starting A Small Business
Educare Limited	Consumer Economics
Republic Bank	Basic Financial Accounting

Trinidad Hilton.  
Trinidad Hilton.  
Park Street.

**G O V E R N M E N T   S P O N S O R E D .**

The Social Service Delivery System  
Small Business and The Taxpayer Relations Unit  
Small Business/Co-operative Management  
Entrepreneurship and Business Development  
Computer Aided Design  
Management and Valuation of Building Operations

Salvatori Building.  
Trinidad House.  
Mille Fleurs.  
M.D.C. Salvatori Office.  
J.S.D.T.I.  
M.D.C. & N.H.A.

**H O M E   S T U D Y   T Y P E S**

Office Management  
Growing A Business  
Construction Law  
Construction Practices For Project Managers  
Estimating In Building Construction  
Accounting For The Building Trade  
The Architect In Practice

Textbook.  
Video Course.  
Textbook.  
Textbook.  
Textbook;  
Textbook.  
Textbook.

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**EDUCATION****WITH****SERVICE.**

## *TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.*

### DATES AND TIMES TO OVERVIEW.

1

**1956—1960** Primary Education up to **Fifth Standard** Exhibition Class, at Mucurapo Boys R.C. School, passing the exam to go to Secondary School.

**1961—1965** Five (5) Years Secondary Education at St. James Secondary School, at the end of which, I received Three (3) ‘O’ Level Passes in **English, Chemistry and Technical Drawing.**

**1965—1974** Secondary Education continued **Part Time**, at Polytechnic Institute and Tranquillity Government Secondary School, where I obtained Two (2) more ‘O’ Level Passes in **Mathematics and Art.**

**1966—1968** Six (6) Months as a **Draughting Assistant** with Mence and Moore Architects.

One (1) Year in John S. Donaldson Technical Institute, **Draughtsmanship Training Programme**

Two (2) Years in a **Draughting Position** with George Jodhan Architect.

**1967** One (1) Year in John S. Donaldson **Junior Builders Training Programme.**

**1968—1979** Eleven (11) Years as a **Draughtsman** with the National Housing Authority, during which time I Supervised some Housing Construction and enrolled for a Correspondence Course in Architecture and started my *real life study* of our Legal System, practicing as a Litigant.

**1976** In house Training in **Management and Valuation Of Building Operations.** hosted by the National Housing Authority and delivered by the Management Development Centre, in their Salvatori Building Office.

**1974—1994** Twenty (20) Years Developmental Research in **Community Lifestyles and Low Cost Housing ; Social, Design and Construction Aspects, relevant to Modern Day Techniques, with a Accent on Tropical Architecture.**

**DESIGN****DEVELOP****DELIVER.**

1980—1996 Lecturing for the University of The West Indies, school Of Continuing Studies (formerly Extra Mural Studies Unit), Four (4) hours per week Evening Classes and Three (3) hours per week, Saturday Classes, on the Subject Interior Design and Decoration. *This being the Second effort to implement the Developmental Aspect of my Research, the First was my Communication to the population via. Letters To The Editor.*

1989—1990 Lectured for The Youth Training And Employment Partnership (YTEPP), on the subject, Interior Design And Decoration.

1988 Training in Computer Aided Draughting at the John S. Donaldson Technical Institute.

1980 Training in Entrepreneurship Development and Business Management from the Management Development Centre, Salvatori Building.

1980—1981 Training by Educare Limited, in Starting A Small Business and Consumer Economics at the Trinidad Hilton.

1980—1989 Six (6) Home Study Courses, using Textbooks and Video Tapes, listed on Page 2 of the previous Overview.

1990 Republic Bank's Training in Basic Financial Accounting, using Computer Modules.

Ministry of Works, Infrastructure & Decentralisation Training for Seven (7) Days in Small Business/Co-operative Management, at Mille Fleur, Queen's Park West.

Taxpayer Relations Unit Training in Small Business and Income Tax, at Trinidad House, St. Vincent Street.

1978—1985 Eight (8) Years exposure to our Legal System, practicing as an Litigant (aggrieved Person) successfully, in our Courts, up to Appeal Court Level, Preparing Documents, Filing Documents, Researching Issues and Pleading.

1991—2001 Various Computer Programmes, using the DOS and WINDOWS Operating Systems. (This Curriculum Vitae was prepared using Microsoft Word 97)

1993—1994 Investigations/Bailiff Operations, using Field skills to Locate Persons for Republic Bank.

1994 Ministry of Social Development Training Course for Ten (10) days, Preparing NGO's To Assist In The Social Service Delivery System.

**EDUCATION****WITH****SERVICE.**

THIS IS THE THIRD EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT THE DEVELOPMENT ASPECT OF MY SHELTER AND SETTLEMENT RESEARCH WITHIN THE NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION “ MEN AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (mavaw)” FROM 1994 TO DATE .  
THE FOURTH EFFORT WILL BE THE PUBLICATION OF THE TEXT  
“ROOTS OF SOCIETAL VIOLENCE--A MALE PERSPECTIVE :  
UNDERSTANDING THE BSD SYNDROME”

## INTRODUCTION.

**Men Against Violence Against Women (MAVAW)**, could be considered to have had a Natural Birth, in that it was a man’s idea, put forward and accepted at a forum to deal with rising crime in 1994, hosted by a Feminist Organisation, called **The National Women’s Caucus (NWC)**. Said idea was to have a **Crime Committee** made up of **concerned men** in society, focussing on **violent male behaviour** and **developing strategies to reduce and eventually stop this male behaviour**.

After functioning for about **nine months** within The National Women’s Caucus, the Crime Committee developed into the organisation **“Men Against Violence Against Women”** and thereafter, **MAVAW** became an active participant in the **“Men’s Movement”**, joining the fifty (50) year old International Men’s Movement and the budding Caribbean Movement, which was **started in Jamaica in 1991**, with the **Fathers’ Incorporated Organisation**.

**MAVAW** is a **Proactive way** to take responsibility for **Male Violence** and to contribute towards the creation of a Violent Free Society, i.e.,:--

1. It puts Concerned men to Work and to identify with Problem Solving.
2. It allows men trying to Change, to achieve Success, by Working to help others.
3. It tries to reach men in Denial, who still live in Violent Relationships, by offering them Support and a way out.

**MAVAWISM** therefore, is the *Pursuit of Equal Rights with Consequent Appreciation for the Differences between the Sexes, Utilising the Principle of Equity and with an Accent on Bringing Paternal Care back into the Home wherever it is Lacking.*

**MAVAW’s MISSION** is *to reduce in the first instance and eventually eradicate unacceptable violence in society, with an emphasis on Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women, using a multi-disciplinary approach, focussing on correcting behaviour skill and belief system deficits.*

**MAVAW** REGISTERED as a **Non-Profit Company (M 1799 95)** in August of **1998** and has three (3) First Directors, namely: -

- |                       |                    |            |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1. CHRISTOPHER HOLDER | POLICE OFFICER     | CHAIRMAN.  |
| 2. DONALD BERMENT     | HOUSING SPECIALIST | SECRETARY. |
| 3. DESMOND PERSAD     | ACCOUNTANT         | TREASURER. |

Fiscal Year—1<sup>st</sup> July—to—30<sup>th</sup> June.

Over the period **February 1994 to date—July 1999**, **MAVAW** has recorded **381 Outreach Activities/Efforts**, spanning the full spectrum of **Social Activism**, the most high profile are: --

1. Campaign to have our **Annual Male Awareness Week in December** and our **Annual Fathers’ Week in June**, declared International Events on the United Nations Calendar.
2. Promotion of an **Annual Gender Sensitive Calypso Competition**, in order to make full use of our major Cultural Entertainment Season, in our Quest for a Violent Free Society.
3. Campaign to build the **First Transitional Home For Men** In Change Mode.

*Activities year by year are listed on the following pages.*

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***THE YEAR—1994.***

1. Presentation of **“THE RIPPLE EFFECT THEORY” (RET)** on Crime at the Chamber of Commerce “National Consultation On Crime”, held in the Queens’ Hall.
2. Attended a ten (10) day Training Course, hosted by the Ministry of Social Development, on the Topic, **“Preparing NGO’s to Assist in the Social Service Delivery System”**.
3. Sat on a Committee to support Senator Diana Mahabir Wyatt’s Presentation to the Senate on **The Unremunerated Work Bill**.

***THE YEAR—1995.***

1. Presentation of a **“3—Line Paper On Domestic Violence”**, in Room 101, UWI’s Engineering Building, said paper promoting the **Concept of Full Cycle Human Resource Management**.
2. Attendance at **Rallies, Processions, Seminars and Exhibitions**, disseminating literature aimed at correcting **Behaviour Skill and Belief System Deficits**.
3. Holistic support to then **Member of Parliament, Hulsie Bhaggan**, for one year, because she was alleging that Psychological Violence was being done to her.

***THE YEAR—1996.***

1. Attendance at **Rallies, Processions** etc., was also done in Year 1994 and continued thereafter.
2. Review and Recommendations submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Settlements, on our **Country’s Report, to the Habitat II Conference** in Istanbul, Turkey.
3. Presentation titled **“Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): Maximum Male Oppression And Horrific Girl Children Abuse”**, for International Day Against Violence To Women.
4. Presentation titled **“Domestic Violence And The Men’s Movement”**, to a Lunchtime Seminar, at the Centre For Gender and Development studies, on the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies.
5. Initiation of the First **“Male Awareness Week”** in December, in collaboration with the then Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Women Affairs.

***THE YEAR—1997.***

1. Sat on a **Cabinet Appointed Ad Hoc Committee**, to review the **1991 Domestic Violence Act** and make Recommendations to correct the problems experienced by persons using said Act.
2. Attended a 3-Day Conference in Barbados, on the Topic **“Gender—Families and Sexual Health: A Spotlight On Males”**, hosted by the International Planned Parenthood Federation.
3. Presentation titled **“Masculinity Construction: A Critique and Experiential Perspective”**, to a Workshop at Holiday Inn on Domestic Violence With a Focus on Male Perpetrators.
4. First ever **“Fathers Week Celebrations”** held in June, with co-host Power 102 Fm Radio.
5. Participant in **UNIFEM, Latin America and Caribbean Section—1 Year Campaign Against Violence Against women**, from November 25<sup>th</sup> 1997 to December 10<sup>th</sup> 1998.

Activities continues on the next page.

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*UNDERSTANDING THE BSD SYNDROME”*

***THE YEAR—1998.***

1. Attended **World Bank’s 2-Day Working Forums on Youth Development**, at the Crew’s Inn, Chaguaramus.
2. Attended the **International Association Of Community Police Officers (IAPCRO’s) 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference** at the Trinidad Hilton “Embracing The Youth Through Community Policing” and delivered a Presentation titled **“The Game Of Violence and The Youth Psyche”**.
3. Presentation titled **“Violence In Relationships: Strategies For Prevention”**, to the Sixth (6) Form students of Tranquillity Government School.
4. Attended a 3-Day Gender Sensitization Workshop at Cascadia Hotel, hosted by the Ministry of Culture and Gender Affairs titled **“Training And Sensitization In Gender And Development”**.
5. Co-hosted with the Centre For Gender and Development Studies Unit at UWI St. Augustine, a Panel Discussion titled **“Men And The New Gender Relations”**, in the ISER Conference Room on Campus, during the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Male Awareness Week**.
6. Celebrated the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fathers Week**, with a **“Fathers Fiesta Exhibition”** on Brian Lara Promenade, co-hosted with the newly formed Fathers Who Care Non governmental Group.

***THE YEAR—1999.***

1. Promotion of the first **“Gender Sensitive Calypso Competition”**, in order to introduce a new Challenge to our Local Artist, utilising our major cultural entertainment season.
2. Planning the publication and distribution of a 65 page **“Domestic Violence Awareness Handbook”**, edited by the Chairman of MAVAW, Police Officer Christopher Holder.
3. Attended **Rape Crisis Society’s 4-Day Induction (Basic Counselling Training Programme)**, dealing with issues of Sexual and Domestic Abuse.
4. Prepared an Article for a Newsletter of the Women and Development Studies Group, titled **“A Man’s View Of Violence Against Women”**.
5. Planning a 1-Year Gender Sensitization Project, with the Women and Development Studies Group at the University of the West Indies, titled **“Man To Man: A Training The Trainers Project”**, which we hope to start in October of 1999 and end in November 2000 and produce a Manual to guide future training, focussing on Reaching The Man Inside.
6. Discussion with **Prison Authorities, to address inmates Belief and Behaviour Deficits**. All six (6) Institutions are targeted, Carera, Frederick Street Port of Spain, the Youth Training Centre, Maximum Security, Golden Grove Men and Golden Grove Women.
7. Planning with **UNESCO Clubs of Trinidad and Tobago**, a Project for Forms 1—6 boys, aimed at reducing Violence In schools.
8. Left Trinidad in **November of 1999 to go to Canada**. During my stay there I completed a 5-Month Developmental Research Project titled **“Violence Reduction Strategies In A Large Multicultural, Racially/Tribally Diverse Developed Country—Using the RET Model”**.

*Activities continue on the next page*

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**T H E Y E A R—2 0 0 0.**

1. Returned from Canada on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2000. On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April I resumed Co-Supervision of **“The Man To Man: Training The Trainers Project”**, which started in March.
2. Resumed dissemination of information at various fora and intensified radio appearances, which climaxed in a **14-Week—1-Hour Lunchtime Programme, on Radio 104 FM, titled “Talking Gender”**. (*Audio tapes of the programmes are available*)
3. Attended **National Family Services outreach counselling group sessions**, for men and women.
4. Resumed planning with the Prison Authorities and submitted a **Healthy Relationships Curriculum**, called **“Managing Manhood”**, to reach inmates incarcerated for sexual offences.
5. Attended a 2-Day Regional Symposium On Juvenile Justice In The Caribbean, titled **“Towards A Rights Approach For Children”**, at the Crowne Plaza, hosted by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).
6. Resumed planning the Non-Violent Project for Forms 1—6 Boys, of the **UNESCO Clubs of Trinidad and Tobago**.
7. Attended the **2<sup>nd</sup> International Men’s Day at Palms Club San Fernando** on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov.
8. Celebrated **UN World AIDS Day** with a 3-Day Lecture Series for Curepe Junior Secondary School, Forms 1—3.
9. Spent **six (6) months** in an Urban environment, **Eastside Plaza, Charlotte Street**, Preparing and Collecting Preliminary Data for the Study titled, **“Examining The Role Of Intimacy And Violence In Spousal Relationships, And Its Impact On Poverty In An Urban Environment”**. Lack of funds prohibited full development of this Project, which had Three (3) Components.

**T H E Y E A R—2001.**

1. Continued participating in **Exhibitions and other forums** when invited, disseminating and displaying literature aimed at correcting **Belief System and Behaviour Skill Deficits**.
2. Prepared **Text on Parenting for Desktop Publication**, using Ria Rogers guide to Hassle free Parenting.
3. Hosted with the Women and Development Studies Group, the **Graduation Ceremony of “The Man To Man: Training The Trainers Project”**, in April.

NOTE:

1. Awaiting funding to proceed with some of the Projects outlined above
2. Please use our Website <http://www.mavaw.com>.
3. Please use our Email: [mavawsec@yahoo.com](mailto:mavawsec@yahoo.com).



## **Men Against Violence Against Women**

Email: [mavawsec@yahoo.com](mailto:mavawsec@yahoo.com) Web Site: <http://www.mavaw.com>



### **What Is The BSD Syndrome?**

The **BSD Syndrome** is a local Trinidad and Tobago analytical concept for Domestic and other Violence, being developed by the NGO, "**Men Against Violence Against Women (MAVAW)**." (1994).

This concept utilizes the information, research and expertise already available for people working in the area of Violence Reduction, placing all that is presently being made use off, under the phenomenon of a **Syndrome**, identifying **BSD's** in a number of ways, briefly explained below.

Tons of work has already been done on: -

- **Belief System Deficits, (BSD)**
- **Behaviour Skill Deficits, (BSD)**
- **Biological System Deficits (BSD) and**
- **Baggage System Dependencies (BSD)** by practicing

Psychologists, Psychiatrists, Sociologists, Social Workers, Medical Internists, Building Biologists, Nutritionists, Interior Designers and Housing Specialists/Community Planners.

Unfortunately, rarely do more than one or two of these professionals; focus on the problem of Domestic Violence and/or Societal Violence, at any one point in time or in any single piece of literature, primarily because of academic learning structures and egotistical practices.

What the **BSD Syndrome** will do, is to pool all the relevant data together under a **Syndrome** and spread the gospel of a Holistic approach to solving Violence Problems. In the **BSD Syndrome**, you will realize that violence in relationships is a paradoxical issue. Characteristics identified as BSD's in "**abusive outwards behaviour**", is complemented and also considered "**abusive acceptance behaviour**", recording the paradoxical fact that both parties in a relationship have BSD's.

It is therefore, a philosophical and scientific way to moves from the individual discipline solutions to a multi-discipline solution and depends on the acceptance of the **concept** that no one discipline has the answer for a situation where recurring violent behaviour have a variety of influencing elements.

Consequently, a model of the four (4) main characteristics within the **syndrome** can be used for research, analysis and diagnostic purposes. In addition, programmes for development in the four areas identified above, can be designed to replace the existing unsuitable ones, which in the main, contribute to polarizing the sexes, using inflammatory language, limiting the healing process.

A lot of research has already been collected for editing, prior to the preparation of a multi-authored text titled "**Roots of Societal Violence—Understanding the BSD Syndrome**". A few professionals have already been approached to be part of this ambitious project and in due course, some of the challenging logistics will be hammered into place. The days of using "Batterer", "Victim", "Perpetrators" in violence analysis, are numbered in the minority.

A letter to the Webmaster of the most powerful "male issues" website, Bert Hoff is appended to this explanation for further clarification and description of our work as **MAVAW**.

***Yours In Nation Building***

**Company No M 1799(95) Charitable Status No F (BUD):7/4/205**

**P.O.R.O.**

FIRST GENERAL MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS—DONALD BERMENT—DAVID LAW—JOHNNY BHARATH.

To: [berthoff@comcast.net](mailto:berthoff@comcast.net).

**REPLY TO BERT HOFF**

Date: **Wed/15/Oct/03**

From: [mavawsec@yahoo.com](mailto:mavawsec@yahoo.com)

Hello Bert,

Please accept my sincere thank you, for your quick response and frank comments to/on my Email "Men Against Violence Against Women". Let me also acknowledge here my deep appreciation for your work in maintaining "**Men Web**" and David Troops' efforts in **The Men's' Issues opus**. These resources will forever be a tremendous help to all men working on issues which affect men, be it abuse to them, from them, to and from their loved ones and to the environment. Another site to note is [www.menagainstviolence.com](http://www.menagainstviolence.com). The other Email to you, mentioned November 19<sup>th</sup>, the annual celebration, locally and in the Caribbean of "**International Men's Day**". My wish is that you hold no objection to this celebration and spread the word to the best of your ability.

The philosophy underpinning reduction and elimination of unacceptable violence, in my view, must accept different methodologies, presentation styles and degrees of healing by the persons involved; all based on their personal levels of emotional, physical and spiritual maturity.

Many men, on first hearing about MAVAW and reading our documents, get the impression that we do not realize the full extent of abuse to men or support them to the same degree, as we do women. A closer perusal of our Formal Documents and our History will show quite the opposite.

For the past five years **MAVAW (Men Against Violence Against Women)** has been operating a 24-hour HOTLINE 1-868-637-0924 with mailbox and cell phone 1-868-753-0804, so that we can testify to the pain and suffering of both men and women experiencing violence in their relationships. Our members sat on the Cabinet appointed Committee, which reviewed our Domestic Violence Legislation. MAVAW men now sit on the Cabinet appointed Committee, which is analyzing the Status of the Family in Trinidad and Tobago. Our Crime Statistics predominantly record offences by violent young males, a serious concern to us as men, fathers, uncles, brothers, nephews, grandfathers and adults. At last count, 5,494 men were incarcerated in our Prison system and 216 women. A fact we aggressively requested to be noted by the formulators of the first National Gender Policy. As our Documents state "**We Want Change Not Exchange**"

Every Judge, Master of the High Court, Justice of the Peace, Magistrate, Library, Parliamentarian, Calypsonian, Media House and many NGO's to name a few have a copy of our **2002 Domestic Violence Awareness Handbook**. On every occasion possible and there is a very interactive media component here; we challenge men and women on their gender insensitive statements. MAVAW coordinated a 13-week radio programme titled "Talking Gender" emphasizing how both men and women are affected equally by violence in relationships.

At present there are five very important projects, which are getting the support of Men Against Violence Against Women: -

1. Publication of a textbook by member Dr. Russell Foote, "Roots Of Youth Aggression: Home, School and Multilevel Interventions",
2. International Men's Day by friend and supporter of MAVAW PhD candidate Jerome Teelucksingh.
3. "Men's TV" a one hour television programme for men, hosted by member Dr. Robert Moultrie, with half hour interviews and half hour public interaction.
4. The **BSD Syndrome Concept**, our most important and "people issue" to date (explained below in part, which in my view is the future of Domestic Violence analysis and discussion).
5. A Bumper Sticker Programme, utilizing our most poignant "One Liners.

This **Syndrome** will eliminate the terms now used in the **Violence In Relationships Arena**, terms like **victim, batterer, perpetrator, domestic violence** etc. Within the **BSD Syndrome**, you will understand that Violence In Relationships is a paradoxical issue...Characteristics, which have already been well documented elsewhere, now come together under the umbrella of a Syndrome, and paradoxically, what is considered abusive as “outwards behaviour” is complemented and also considered abusive as “acceptance behaviour”, recording the fact that both parties in the relationship have BSD’s. These Characteristics can be explained under 4 Heads, which time and space allows for brief mention here: -

1. Belief System Deficit (BSD)
2. Behaviour Skill Deficit (BSD)
3. Baggage System Dependency (BSD)
4. Biological System Deficit (BSD) and these are the negative components in the Syndrome. The positive action within the Syndrome also termed BSD’s, but refer to methodologies utilized to accomplish Development: -
5. Belief System Development.
6. Behaviour Skill Development
7. Baggage System Development and
8. Biological System Development.

This concept scientifically places the Violence In Relationships Issue, into a medium that takes away the stigma and **gender polarizing** associated with its treatment in the past. We anticipate resistance to this concept by some women, primarily because every statistic, which lists one person being hurt, will also have to list the other person causing the pain, as being hurt too. A lot of women will find that hard to accept, but we hope that in few years time this will change.

In the past MAVAW actively co-hosted **Male Awareness Week** in December, **Fathers’ Week** in June and fully support the entire Women’s Days here. In Canada during the year 2000, we were actively involved with planning the first **Dad Walk** by the White Ribbon Campaign. This year they celebrated their 4<sup>th</sup> **Dad Walk** on the 15<sup>th</sup> June at the Toronto Zoo. <http://www.whiteribbon.com>. We were also instrumental in changing one Canadian Government programme from “**Male Batterers Programme**” to “**Spousal Abuse Programme**”. In Suriname during November 2002, one of the feminist’s organisations there, which has progressed to the “people issue” stage, **Foundation Stop Violence Against Women, Director Tienke Sumter**, Email [stopgeweld@sr.net](mailto:stopgeweld@sr.net), invited us to participate in a 3-day conference and provide a 4-day training programme for their NGO Sector in the following areas: -

1. Domestic Violence Awareness.
2. Parenting
3. Healthy Relationships.
4. Domestic Violence and Interior Design.

The conference Theme was “**Development= Change: From Women Counseling To System Oriented Counseling**” and my presentation was titled “The Role Of Men Against Violence Against Women”. Let me acknowledge that it was at a training session with the top managers of this forward looking feminist group that the BSD Syndrome was fine-tuned with their contribution, from just noting the “baggage” as a characteristic to the “Baggage System Dependency”.

What we firmly believe however is that we as men must take responsibility for male violence and do all in our power to reduce and eventually eliminate it from our society (**Violence by men against men, women, children and the environment**). If women choose to do or not do the same, they will bear the consequences of their action. We are **men not God**, so judgment is not ours to pass

Please keep in touch Bert and forgive this long Email.

**Donald Berment, Secretary MAVAW**





## **Men Against Violence Against Women**

45 River Estate Circular, River Estate, Diego Martin, Trinidad.

Hot Lines: 637-0924, 668-5133. 753-0804 Fax: 637-0924.

Email: [mavawsec@yahoo.com](mailto:mavawsec@yahoo.com). Website: <http://www.mavaw.com>



**DIRECTORS:** Christopher Holder, CHAIRMAN. Donald Berment, SECRETARY. Desmond Persad, TREASURER.

**Date:** Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2004 **Our Ref.:** mavaw/PDW-ja-1

**Your Ref:**

**Mr. Peter Douglas Weller, PhD,  
Clinical Psychologist,  
University Counseling Service,  
University of the West Indies, Mona,  
11 Gibraltar Camp Road,  
Kingston 7,  
JAMAICA.**

**SUBJECT: CARIBBEAN MEN'S  
GROUPS AND BATTERER'S  
INTERVENTIONS.**

Hello Peter,

Thank you for your kind attention and invitation to contribute to this new *Men's Group* in Jamaica and your Report preparation for UNIFEM's review meeting in December 2004. Men of **MAVAW** are always extremely excited to participate in the growth and development of "*The Men's Movement*," which commenced over 50 years ago Internationally, fuelled by the example of the most holistic Gender Sensitive man known to date, Jesus Christ.

The *Men's Groups* known by us in the Caribbean are: -

Trinidad and Tobago—ARTOM (The Association For The Reorientation And Transformation Of Masculinity)—Men (Men's Enlightened Network) not active and of course us.

Jamaica—Father's Incorporated.

Barbados—National Men's Fellowships Association.

St. Lucia—The Mother's and Father's Union.

Belize—Brothers of BOWAND.

Suriname—ManmitMan.

Guyana—Men Against Violence Against Women.

Trinidad **MAVAW** sat on the Cabinet Appointed Committee to review our Domestic Violence Legislation, Act No 10 of 1991 to our new Act No 27 Of 1999. We also sat on the just completed Cabinet Appointed Committee to examine the Institution of the Family in Trinidad and Tobago.

What has resonated to a high degree in these deliberations, both over 12 months duration, is the need to reconsider the Terminology used in the "*Violence Reduction Movement*" and attempt to truncate the Gender and other polarization consequences, which accrue from words like "*Batterer*," "*Victim*," "*Perpetrator*," etc.

It is now accepted Internationally, that dysfunctional behaviour in Democratic Societies, has been researched, presented and documented individually by disciplines within the Medical, Social, Food and Building Sciences. Psychologists (like yourself) Psychiatrists, Internists, Nutritionists, Building Biologists, Interior Designers & Decorators and Housing Specialists (like me), have already recorded/accumulated a tremendous amount of research/experience in their respective disciplines.

Unfortunately, this valuable effort is only utilised individually in order to strategize for *Violence Reduction* in societies, which in my view has allowed the creation of a Peaceful Culture to elude us to date.

Over the past 2 years, Trinidad and Tobago's, **Men Against Violence Against Women** has been presenting this accumulated effort as a means to face "Head On" the Roots of Societal Violence. We call it **The BSD Syndrome**, which gives due respect to the work already done in the individual disciplines listed above, providing a path for a Unified Approach to **Violence Reduction**, eliminating the Terminology that has been the source of polarization, replacing it with **Belief System Deficit and Development, Behaviour Skill Deficit and Development, Baggage System Dependency and Development and Biological System Deficit and Development, or for short "A BSD"**

Although, **The BSD Syndrome** is a simple solution of Structure, it will require the input of all the relevant professionals, in order to present the final work in Book form for dissemination to the public. The presentation for the Academic Community is about ¾% complete, funding a major concern. Sadly, men working in this arena do not obtain adequate funds to do what is necessary. We were offered coffee, juice and finger-food on those Cabinet Appointed Committees mentioned above, not even free Internet Access to our Community Based North West Location to do Caribbean and International Collaborations, like this. Not to be daunted by this reality however, Peter, it will be fantastic if I can get you to be excited about this eclectic Syndrome as I am and interest you in providing a Chapter in the proposed Book, suggested Title **"Roots Of Societal Violence—A Male Perspective: Understanding The BSD Syndrome"**.

With respect to the Intervention Programmes you are interested in, there is not much to offer locally or in the Caribbean, which originates from the Judiciary. Brief mention is made of Counseling Programmes in our Domestic Violence Legislation and we have a new Family Court System that depends heavily on Counselling and Mediation.

We also have active NGO's, 1,630 registered at last count, in 15 Municipal Regions and a Ministry of Community Development and Gender Affairs, which over the past five years, have been seriously attempting to educate both men and women on the concepts of Gender and Gender in Development. The financial commitment to this work is however heavily skewed to the female component of the Gender Arena. In our last Budget, 2004-2005, the sum of \$9.7M TT was allocated for several women development projects and \$160,000 TT for one male development project, in spite of the glaring statistics of young male crime, deaths, suicides and poor school attendance.

However, I spent 5 months in Canada (November 1999 to April 2000) completing a self-funded Development Research Project, using the REM (Ripple Effect Model), titled **"Violence Reduction Strategies in a Large Multicultural, Racially/Tribally Diverse Country—Using the RET Model"**. Funds were not and still are not available to present this work for academic scrutiny. But in Canada, you will find NGO, State and Judicial Intervention Programmes, many of which target the male population.

The List of Websites below provides valuable material, for both pro-feminist and pro-masculine research:

[www.xyonline.net](http://www.xyonline.net)      [www.michaelkaufman.com](http://www.michaelkaufman.com)      [www.endabuse.org/bpi](http://www.endabuse.org/bpi)      [www.mavaw.com](http://www.mavaw.com)  
[www.web.net/womensHRights](http://www.web.net/womensHRights)      [www.menweb.org](http://www.menweb.org)      [www.sheridanhill.com/Batteredmen.html](http://www.sheridanhill.com/Batteredmen.html)  
[www.csulb.edu/~mfiebert/assault.htm](http://www.csulb.edu/~mfiebert/assault.htm)      [www.resourcesforfathers.org](http://www.resourcesforfathers.org)      [www.menshealthnetwork.org](http://www.menshealthnetwork.org)  
[www.menstudies.com/links.htm](http://www.menstudies.com/links.htm)      [www.achillesheel.freeuk.com/index.html](http://www.achillesheel.freeuk.com/index.html)      [www.profeminist.org](http://www.profeminist.org)  
[www.cyfc.umn.edu/Fathernet](http://www.cyfc.umn.edu/Fathernet)      [www.unicef.org/reseval/malsr.htm](http://www.unicef.org/reseval/malsr.htm).

Best of luck with your future work and I welcome further discussion on the project and the development of a coordinated and collaborative Caribbean approach in both areas. Please remember the movement for Terminological Changes. Our website (under construction listed above) will give you more information.

Signed .....DONALD BERMENT Secretary MAVAW.

***Yours In Nation Building***

***Company No M 1799(95) Charitable Status No F (BUD):7/4/205***

***G.M. Co-ordinators: David Law, Johnny Bharath,***

***P.O.R.O.***





REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

## **Men Against Violence Against Women**

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**DIRECTORS:** Christopher Holder, CHAIRMAN. Donald Berment, SECRETARY. Desmond Persad, TREASURER.

**Date:** Sat/8<sup>th</sup>/Oct/05

**Our Ref.:** mavaw/BM-uwicc

**Your Ref:**

Professor Ramesh Deosaran,  
Head,  
Centre for Criminology and Criminal Justice,  
University of the West Indies,  
St. Augustine Campus.

SUBJECT: UPCOMING BREAKFAST MEETING AND SEMINAR ON VICTIMS' RIGHTS

Dear Professor,

Thank you for the invitation to the Breakfast Meeting on Sat/15/Oct/05 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and the Notice of the Seminar on "Victims' Rights and Welfare" on Sat/12/Nov/05 at the LRC, UWI.

Over the years my research as a Housing Specialist has highlighted two important facts: -

1. That criminal behaviour has an inherent paradoxical nature and therefore must be analyzed with a suitable model and
2. There must be a collaborative and cohesive thrust in the intelligence gathering aspect of crime prevention that has to rely on "close to the ground" support, with well managed communication strategies, as opposed to high level and International assistance.

As part of my contribution to MAVAW, attempts are being made to develop "The BSD Syndrome" both as a scientific treatment of Domestic Violence and as a Model for analyzing its occurrence in families.

The volume and scope of this attempt requires resources unavailable to me and MAVAW at the present time but the concept has been introduced to the local and International NGO community a few years ago. On our developing Website the Folder "The BSD Syndrome" can provide some insight into my attempt.

An unbiased review of the nearest thing we have to "close to the ground" intelligence gathering i.e. "The Crime Stoppers Programme", will reveal that there are reports the Police have not attended to as yet although the activity reported is ongoing. This is not the forum to lay the foundation for Item 2 above.

In the Folder "Books", "Gender" same site a copy of the Draft Gender Policy is available for first reading.

Our Chairman Christopher Holder recently completed his M.Sc at your Centre in the "Sociology of Crime and will be interested in offering his views. I am interested in doing Law next year, wish me luck.

Our sincere thanks again for your kind invitation, which I will try to attend.

Signed .....DONALD BERMENT Secretary MAVAW.

*Yours In Nation Building*

Company No M 1799(95) Charitable Status No F (BUD):7/4/205

G.M. Co-ordinators: David Law, Johnny Bharath.

P.O.R.O.



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**DIRECTORS:** Christopher Holder, *CHAIRMAN*. Donald Berment, *SECRETARY*. Desmond Persad, *TREASURER*.

Date: Thur/8/04/04

Our Ref: mavaw/pc2/cd

Your Ref:

*The Director,  
Community Development Division,  
Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs,  
Cor. Jerningham Avenue and Queens' Park East,  
PORT OF SPAIN.*

**SUBJECT: FORMAL THANKS FOR MAVAW'S COMPUTER SYSTEM UPGRADE.**

Dear Sir,

Please accept our sincere thank you for the assistance your Ministry provided in order to upgrade the Computer System used by Men Against Violence Against Women (MAVAW) in our North East Location, at No 45 River Estate Circular, River Estate; Diego Martin.

Your Ministry's kind consideration will enhance MAVAW's ability to contribute more to our Nation's Development in this critical arena of Violence Reduction. This tool has tremendous potential to be used in new and innovative ways for the development of our North East Location, as explained below, in addition to recording our ongoing research, casework analysis, desktop publications, CD preparation, etc. (*No ability to do Internet Work as yet*)

As you may be aware, our 2002 Domestic Violence Awareness Handbook, Edited by our Chairman Police Inspector Christopher Holder, has been a valuable addition to our Local Literature Resource and is still in great demand, being regularly used in all the Nation's Libraries, especially the West Indiana Collection at the UWI Library and the Heritage Section at the National Library.

We hope to revise this text and very soon produce a CD version of the existing one, a Project that will go a long way towards decreasing the demand from so many sections of society and provide a User-Friendly-Graphical Interface for our young adventurous population.

Men Against Violence Against Women has already produced electronically: -

- ♥ An overview of the most successful Healthy Relationships Curriculum used in Canada.
- ♥ A Parenting Programme focused on Training as opposed to Discipline.

These are provided free on request by anyone supplying three 1.44MB Floppy Disks.

The most immediate benefit to our Organisation is the opportunity to do our Nation Building work without the Time and Cost Constraints embedded in the operational policy of the National Library system. Their Internet Access however is still very valuable to us in order to keep in touch with our numerous similar minded International and Local Organisations, although time restrictions also exist here. A subsidy for ADSL service from TSTT would rectify this setback.

You may also be aware of my personal attempt, over a period of nine years, as the Technical Co-coordinator for the Uptown Carnival Improvement Committee (UCIC), to successfully bring MAS

and PAN back “Behind The Bridge” on the Piccadilly Greens. UCIC was not successful however, in implementing social and physical infrastructure development, which we were confident would have provided an escape valve for the observed and researched Community needs in Laventille.

My personal opinion is that the reluctance and/or indecision by the controlling authorities at the time, to act upon our properly documented and authoritative advice, has resulted in the current “flaming den” of illegal activity, emanating from this area with has so much potential for positive societal development and housing so many talented sons and daughters of our beautiful Island.

With this experience still painfully fresh in my mind and observing how my immediate community of River Estate is being traumatized by incidence of violent behaviour, my intention as a Director and Secretary of Men Against Violence Against Women (MAVAW) is to return to the early Research Mode of my Specialization Process in Low Cost Housing and Community Lifestyles.

This means using No 45 River Estate Circular as a base for a comprehensive 7-Component Development Project outlined below. Having viewed with grave concern the affects and trauma of my longitudinal, cross-sectional and sequential case studies, with the consequent growing violent outbursts in and around my immediate community, the following is being planned and any advice on possible funding sources will be greatly appreciated: -

- |                                 |                       |                                           |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. Computer School              | (9am—12pm) (2pm—5pm)  | 10 persons per class—FREE.                |
| 2. Internet Café                | (6pm—9pm)             | \$10.00 per session 10 persons per class. |
| 3. Gym Training Facilities      | (9am—9pm)             | \$10 per day.                             |
| 4. Sewing School                | (9am—12pm) (2pm—5pm)  | 10 persons per class—FREE.                |
| 5. Refreshment Centre           | (9am—9pm)             | Market Prices.                            |
| 6. Reference Library            | (9am—9pm)             | FREE.                                     |
| 7. Drug Free Park and Promenade | (To back of property) |                                           |

Each Component will run for one year in the first instance divided into 4 three-month cycles. This absolutely necessary initiative is critical in order to assist in preventing the consequences of another “Laventille” example in River Estate and Diego Martin

Men Against Violence Against Women has the professional staff willing and able to operate this 7-Point Crime Reduction Plan and we anticipate a good working relationship with your Ministry as we progress with this exciting initiative. Said initiative is expected to be a Pilot Project to be utilized in all the Communities where MAVAW’s have been actively working over the years.

My 30 plus years developmental research project titled “The Social Effects Of And Construction Methods Employed In Community Lifestyles And low Cost Housing, Relevant To Modern Day Techniques With An Accent On Tropical Architecture” has clearly identified the need for such comprehensive, properly managed Community Initiatives, without the negative influences used at times in partisan political activity.

*I will be using the Upgraded MAVAW Equipment to fax this Document to you. The Signed letter will be sent next week. Again our sincere thanks for your kind assistance.*

*Signed .....DONALD BERMENT Secretary MAVAW.*

*Yours In Nation Building*

Company No M 1799(95) Charitable Status No F (BUD):7/4/205

G.M. Co-ordinators: David Law, Johnny Bharath.

P.O.R.O.

cc. The Prime Minister—The Minister of Social Development—The Minister of Planning and Development.



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**DIRECTORS:** Christopher Holder, CHAIRMAN. Donald Berment, SECRETARY. Desmond Persad, TREASURER.

**Date:** Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 1996

**Our Ref:** mavaw/H2

**Your Ref:**

*The Honourable John Humphrey,  
Minister,  
Ministry of Housing and Settlements,  
NHA Building,  
South Quay,  
PORT OF SPAIN*

**SUBJECT: CONTRIBUTION TO  
THE COUNTRY REPORT—  
HABITAT II CONFERENCE—  
ISTANBUL—TURKEY.**

Dear Sir,

Let me first express my sincere gratitude for being able to participate in this most important planning discussion, which included two days of ***Horizontal Dialogue***, at the Hotel Normandie.

Secondly, I extend compliments to you and your team, for producing a forward-looking, sensitive and well-presented **Country Report**.

In my view, said **Report** could well be the most articulate one in Istanbul next month, having focused on the **three (3)** essential areas of **Settlement Planning**, namely: -

- ***Design***
- ***Construction and***
- ***Social Concerns.***

My twenty-two (22) years in **Housing/Settlement Research**, constrains me to note the following **Twelve (12) Points**. Said **Points**, giving further proof to the claim of **“wide cross-section collaboration”** noted in the **Report’s Introduction** at page three (3), **section 1**. {During the 22 years Research, sixteen (16) years maintained a collaborative link with the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus; lecturing on the Subject Interior Design and Decoration for the Extra-Mural Department, now the School of Continuing Studies and producing the large Campus Exhibitions of the Period.}

**Point 1.** The history of Trinidad and Tobago reveal some exciting ***Social and Cultural Landmarks*** which could stimulate **Tourist**, interest if included in the **Introduction Section** or expanded upon in the verbal Presentation.

**Point 2.** In **Section 3.2**, The **National Physical Development Plan Strategy to the year 2000**, appears to have been most successful with its **Socio-economic Component**, as evidenced by: -

1. ***The three (3) Government changes over a period of fourteen (14) years, peacefully.***
2. ***The present division in our Political System.***
3. ***The most recent Habitat II—Media and Information Encounter—Shelter For All.***

**Point 3.** What appears to be missing from being mentioned within **Section 3.2, Sub-section C**, **“Existing Land Management Initiatives”**, but has been developed anyway in the Nation are: -

1. The Waste Recycle Management Initiatives by the Solid Waste Management Company Limited.
2. The collaborative efforts, originating from the University's Campus in St. Augustine, since the first showing of their wares in **April of 1989**, with the **TETRAD Exhibition**. Said efforts seeking to address the **Social and Construction Concerns**, of our teething pains, in **Shelter and Settlement Development** viz.: -
  - a. *Crime.*
  - b. *Gender Equity.*
  - c. *Hurricane Resistant Housing and*
  - d. *Interior Design and Decoration (this initiative being an essential component of the Extra Mural Department now School of Continuing Studies and having a much longer history than the first three a, b and c, immediately above-mentioned).*

**Point 4.** Section 3.3, Land Use, notes that thirty-four percent (34)% of our land acreage is devoted to **Agriculture**, but our **Annual Budgets** have continuously shown an astronomically **high food bill for imports**. This suggests that until we can effectively feed ourselves by using this **34%**, we must in the **Short Term**, mandate by Deed Stipulations, to all Beneficiaries of housing land, that a percentage (%) of said land, be used for **Agricultural Production**. Community Based Organisations can manage the Collection and Distribution of this new initiative, aptly titled "**Shelter Agriculture**". In addition, to consolidate the current concept of "**Green Architecture**", our **Commercial Construction Projects**, must at every Floor Level, be designed to provide for a percentage (%) of **Agricultural Use**, managed by Staff Co-operatives. **Such Construction and any High Rise Development to be of a non-confrontational type, a "Natural Growth Architectural Principle"**.

**Point 5.** In the Historical Review at **Section 4 page 7**, the major actors in the **Sector** have concentrated on, construction of housing units and infrastructure, in order to satisfy demand. The **new Policy** will obviously correct this, as the housing equation has since been understood to include, efficient designs and social concerns.

It should be noted here though, that the **NGO's** claim to fame does not belong in the provision of housing as stated, financial constraints explained, but in bringing to the attention of the National Community, the equal importance of the other two (2) elements in **Settlement Development**, namely, **Design and Sociology**. This claim humbly acknowledges the co-operation of a miniscule section of the Architectural Fraternity and a steadily growing, aggressive few on the University's Campus in St. Augustine.

**Point 6.** Under **Section 4.2**, during the second shift of Government's emphasis on Settlements, "Community Development/Revitalisation" was highlighted as the mechanism to address the **Social Concerns of Settlement Development**. The **new Policy** has shown an aggressive awareness of this sub-programme to Shelter, i.e. Settlement and National Development, alongside a healthy respect for the NGO Community.

This scenario promises an exciting period of our **Democratic Growth**. With greater use being made of our **Human and Capital Resources**, on and off the University's Campus, under a **Human Resource Management Policy**, which encompasses the "**Full Cycle Of Human Development**," our example of **Settlement Development** may well bring the first **Nobel Prize** to a small Island State.

**Point 7.** Under **Section 5, Best Practices**, we need to address the misconception that architects "**sell designs**" as opposed to "**provide solutions to space problems**." The manner in which the majority of practicing architects have dispensed Architecture as a Service in the past, has contributed in the most part, to this misconception.

The harmony between **recipients** of architectural services and the rest of the **National Community**, is intimately hinged on the **concept** that, "in any specific discipline, service to humanity is of first importance."

We will continue to have **non-completion** of **Plans and Programmes**, until **Architectural Service** is dispensed with analysis, understanding, problem solving and monitoring, maintaining accessibility as a priority. **Nomination**, the right to use a **Title** after your name and **Licensing**, the right to be the **sole provider of a Service**, will only be equitable and meaningful when “love for all humanity is placed before love for self.”

The magnitude of this **Paradigm Shift** is made obvious when we look at the **numbers**. In Trinidad and Tobago we have sixty-five (65) **Registered Architects**, who are available to service a population of over **1.2 million persons**, i.e.

- *1 Architect per 18,000 persons,*
- *At a Service Rate of one (1) job per year,*
- *1 Architect has must live for 18,000 years and that does not include population growth.*

The solution lies in the **Development and Practice** of “**Natural Growth Architecture**”, which links **Service with Training** in a manner that allows **“Horizontal Dialogue”** with the National Community, in a never ending fulfilling devotion, another **Principle** in this **Concept of NGA**

**Point 8.** Under **Section 5.3**, the practice of **Public and Private Sector Partnership**, will be continued under the **new Policy** and rightly so. However, in my view, the State must retain the responsibility to conduct and compile **Research**, whilst co-coordinating the development of Housing/Shelter Community Co-operatives and Community Based Organisations.

**Point 9.** In addition, all **mass housing providers** should not only be seen as willing and capable to design Housing Units for Low Income Earners. A **system** should be in place to allow our trained professionals, in the **Public Service** particularly, to expose their expertise to the rich section of Society, as long as there is no conflict of interest; the Numbers dictate such a consideration. (1 architect per 18,000 persons).

**Basically**, the established Authority on Housing and Settlements in any Society, must relate to: -

1. *Existing Stock, both Formal and Informal, i.e. (planned and unplanned)*
2. *Proposed Stock, designs completed and being approved.*
3. *Future stock,*

Whilst providing and allowing **Solutions** that recognizes the usable existing **Natural Growth Experiences**, emanating from both planned and unplanned Developments.

**Point 10.** This innovative composition of the **Joint Consultative Council** still exposes an **opening** for the **“Construction End Organisations”** i.e. one hosting: -

1. *Interior Designers.*
2. *Furniture Producers.*
3. *Landscapers.*
4. *Artists and Accessories Suppliers.*

The **Council** could be encouraged to try and fill this **opening** and should also become **user-friendlier**.

**Point 11.** It is refreshing to note, that in the **new Policy**, **Gender Issues** will be given its just due. The fact that **women** are generally confined to enclosed spaces for ninety-five percent (95%) of the day, combined with the ever-growing realization of the importance of the **Home Management Function** in continuing our existence as a **Civilization**: demands extreme caution in achieving efficiency in **Design Solutions**.

Consequently, the **Male Function** in the Home as Co-parent has to be instructed in the light of our Socio-economic experiences, with the importance of positive **Male Role Modeling**, emphasized vigorously. The **Orientation of Masculinity** must guide our **Males** to be as good a **Protector** and **Provider** as we are **Reproducers**.

**Point 12.** In support of your conviction Mr. Minister that because of our small size and unique growth pattern, we will eventually see a fusion of Rural and Urban Developments, with identifiable Agricultural Communities. Let me suggest that in the next Review of the **Proposed Urban and Regional Planning Act**, the word “**Ruban**” be used to designate the “**fusion.**”

My two (2) **peripheral** and **final comments** are as follows: -

1. The “**Horizontal Dialogue**” as underlined in the **new Policy** has already started, most recent example, the **Media Encounter** at the Normandie. What has to be done to maintain and develop it is as follows: -
  - a. Commence **dialogue** on **Reports** before they are submitted to their destination in the finished form.
  - b. During **dialogue**, greater respect should be shown for the **Floor Participation**, when doing **Reviews and Press Releases**.
  - c. Suggested **Expert Speakers and Ministers** should indicate their availability to spend at least one (1) **day** at the **Conference**, before their invitation is confirmed. This would allow participants to access these “**Experts**” and allow such “**Experts**” to evaluate the **Inputs** from the **Floor**.
2. A little Introduction to Istanbul and Turkey would have revealed some interesting facts.

The above **12-Point Contribution** will form part of my **Presentation in the NGO Forum**, if I am **selected and funded** to attend as a member of the Non-Governmental Organisation “Men Against Violence Against Women (MAVAW)”.

*Signed.....Donald Berment, Secretary, MAVAW*

***Yours In Nation Building***  
***Company No M 1799(95) Charitable Status No F (BUD):7/4/205***  
***G.M. Co-ordinators : David Law, Johnny Bharath,***  
***P.O.R.O.***





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**DIRECTORS:** Christopher Holder, CHAIRMAN. Donald Berment, SECRETARY. Desmond Persad, TREASURER.

**Date:** Wed/12/Jult/2000

**Our Ref.:** DDB/E/1/00

**Your Ref:**

***TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN (editors, heads of news etc.)***

### **THE VIOLENCE IN ARCHITECTURE**

The most **insidious**, **crippling** and **challenging** problem facing the profession of **Architecture** today is “**Shelter and Settlement Violence**”, generally called **Domestic Violence**.

**Insidious**, in that the profession has failed to date, to accept, recognize, appreciate and solutionise for the prevalence of Violence that emanates from the **Familial Environment**, which always include some form of **Shelter**.

**Crippling**, in that regardless of the beautiful structures built and secured, dysfunctional human beings, continue to wreck havoc, in and around such space solutions.

**Challenging**, in that the necessary **Research** to inform Curriculum Design for **Programmes in Architecture** is not yet deemed essential, especially Research to assist in **Behaviour Change Strategies**.

In addition, no attention is being paid to the increasing demand for “**Transitional Homes**”, for both **men and women**, who have been living in **Violent Relationships**. Said Homes, obviously, have to be designed, using an informed base on the “**Psychosocial Effects of Enclosed Space on Human Behavior**”.

Until the majority of **Architects** stop believing that **Architecture** is a profession for **Architects** and is instead, a **Service To Mankind**, which shapes Space to provide maximum comfort, increase production levels and reduce frustration levels, eventually contributing to balanced human beings, we will not be given the opportunity to have as an Ally, one of the most important partners in Mankind’s Quest for full Democratic development, namely “**Gender Sensitive Architects**”.

Hats off to modern day **Architects** like **Colin Laird**, who in my view, realizes that the two most Critical Components of **Architecture** in the **Future** will be “**Green and Natural Growth Architecture**”

Signed .....DONALD BERMENT Secretary MAVAW.

***Yours In Nation Building***

**Company No M 1799(95) Charitable Status No F (BUD):7/4/205**

**G.M. Co-ordinators: David Law, Johnny Bharath,**

**P.O.R.O.**



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**DIRECTORS:** Christopher Holder, CHAIRMAN. Donald Berment, SECRETARY. Desmond Persad, TREASURER.

**Date:** Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2004

**Our Ref.:** mavaw/NGA-1

**Your Ref:**

## **INTRODUCTION.**

### **NATURAL GROWTH ARCHITECTURE (NGA) —A REALITY AND OUR FUTURE.**

**Architecture is defined as the science, art or profession of designing and constructing buildings or other structures.**

*“Architecture through the ages, has evolved and adapted to meet the changing needs of Nations in their religion, politics and of events which reflects the rising cost of land and advancing technology with its designs of multi-storey buildings, of reinforced concrete, glass and steel.”* The Secretary, Trinidad and Tobago Institute of Architects, 1990.

*“Architecture is undoubtedly one of the most enjoyable professions. It offers a wealth of interest in a variety of fields, which few other professions can match and provides an emotional satisfaction, which only the other arts can stimulate. It exacts a high price for this enjoyment however, and in order to derive the fullest pleasure from it, the architect must devote himself completely to its- study and practice. The more proficient he can become and the greater the mastery he can acquire, the more complete will be his enjoyment. At the same time he has a very real responsibility towards his fellow men, for the buildings and environments which he creates may well have a profound effect on their lives and those of their children.”* Arthur Willis and W B George “The Architect In Practice” Fifth Edition 1974 page 1.

The following are the subjects on which lectures are given and examinations set, as part of any comprehensive course in architecture: -

1. Construction and Design.
2. Nature of Materials.
3. Theory of Structures.
4. Law.
5. Services.

The architect's duties briefly consist of: -

1. The design of the building.
2. The preparation of working drawings and contract documents.
3. The arranging of the contract.
4. The supervision of the work whilst in progress.
5. The certifying of interim payments and the examination of final accounts (including their checking if no quantity surveyor is appointed).

In my view, architecture as had been practiced to date, has failed us miserably, both in the training and education of future architects and in the service to humankind, in spite of the advice and guidelines laid down by our most committed architects.

This failure has been recorded dramatically in developing countries and can be seen in the following ways: -

1. Developments that require continuous security and isolated from its surrounding neighbours.
2. Mass housing solutions which creates serious social problems, some like crime, poverty, and domestic violence increasing at alarming rates.
3. Housing developments very underutilized by its residents.
4. The image of the collar and tie, nose in the air professional, given by most architects and in the manner with which they showcase their work to the public, saturated with condescension for the less fortunate so trained.
5. The focus in training programmes is to become an architect and service clients, as opposed to making a positive contribution to the art and practice of architecture as a service to humankind.
6. In every country where architects practice, there is an enormous difference between supply and demand, which is continuously increasing, since a new birth occurs every nine months and a new architect completes training every seven years.
7. At my last count, in Trinidad and Tobago, there were 65 practicing registered architects to service a population of 1.3 million people. This means that 1 architect has a potential market of 18,000 persons. Therefore, if s/he obtains one client per year, s/he has to live for 18,000 years to satisfy this market share, bearing in mind that the population is growing in a 7:1 ratio to the supply of architects and repeat business follows a quality service.  
In one city in India, there were 500 architects for a population of 4 million persons, i.e. 1 architect with a market share of 8,000 persons.  
In Martinique and Guadeloupe there were 220 architects for a population of 700,000 persons, i.e. 1 architect with an available market share of 1,181 persons.
8. The majority of developments, both in the residential and commercial domains, confront with nature's guidelines for developing, which demands the following -
  - Only what is necessary to be removed be removed.
  - Include shelter agriculture and green building techniques.
  - Develop high-rise structures in the incline plane or stepped forms.
  - Embrace the natural and unplanned surrounding environment, in order to enhance the living quality of the whole community.
9. Architects, in spite of the devastating negative effects being felt by Nations, give sociological and psychosocial concerns, existing and developing in settlements slight attention. Issues like Crime, Poverty, Domestic Violence and Dysfunctional Families.

Traditional architectural practice has exhibited as outlined above three things: -

1. A serious Personnel problem.
2. A bad Attitude towards Nature and
3. Insensitivity to the sociological and psychosocial aspects of space use.

I repeat here that traditional architecture, as had been practiced to date has failed us miserably

Consequently, we need a new direction for this profession of my choice and soul. It has slipped off the path for genuine development. Many are being overwhelmed by the glory of accreditation and the love for beautiful drawings and buildings, a small part of the whole concept that is “Service To Humanity”, in this discipline that is architecture, shaping space to benefit humankind.

This direction is titled “**Natural Growth Architecture,**” architecture for the people, by the people, with the people. A lifestyle you could say, which places the spiritual before the personal. A continuous living, learning, service to humanity, shaping space to achieve maximum efficiency, minimum cost, with development in harmony with nature and the built environment, both formal and informal. A definition for this new architecture is given immediately below: -

***Natural Growth Architecture is the science, art or activity directed towards solving humankind's space problems, utilizing its human, capital and/or natural resources in a manner sensitive and adaptive to evolving design, construction and sociological concerns.***

The following 8 points briefly describe what is the study/practice of Natural Growth Architecture: -

1. A study of architecture alongside providing a service, which will never be completed, accepting the philosophy that growth is continuous and God is the final Judge of competence, i.e. certification will never be achieved.
2. This study/practice is fuelled by: -
  - ***Formally trained concepts.***
  - ***Experiential and self directed learning.***
  - ***Natural growth concepts.***
3. This study/practice is based on design, construction, social and nature 's guidelines utilizing: -
  - ***Formal teaching methods.***
  - ***Research in the area of architecture studied as a live-in student.***
  - ***Analysis of peripheral or supporting disciplines.***
4. It suggests that the force within (the love) to be involved with architecture and the space solution it encompasses, is too dynamic to wait on the classroom model of learning and places little emphasis on the regimentation and prestige of accreditation associated with traditional training for architects.
5. The titles in this study/practice are of two types: -
  - ***A person following the 14 Principles in Natural Growth Architecture for 1 to 8 years is a Friend of Architecture.*** (Principles are listed on next page No 4)
  - ***A person following the 14 Principles in NGA for 8 years to the end of their natural life is a Natural Growth Architect.*** (Principles are listed on next page No 4)
6. The level of commitment required to stay a Friend of Architecture and eventually a Natural Growth Architect, will soon weed out those without that special love (inward force) necessary to fine tune skills essential for providing the best “space solutions” in humankind's quest for positive development.
7. Because of the limited number of architects available to citizens worldwide, they should be made use of at every level of their training, according to the levels of expertise acquired as they progress.
8. Developing countries cannot afford the luxury of sending their best potential architects abroad to study. This means 7 years without this citizens/student input into National Development, which will allow growth for both the country and the individual. Further, the acclimatization to a foreign climate will be a setback to providing service in the home country, if and when they return.

The following 14 Principles of Natural Growth Architecture further explain the 8 points abovementioned. These Principles start with a Pledge emphasizing the most important Principle in the study and practice of Natural Growth Architecture: -

1. I pledge to place service to humankind above all other demands on architecture.
2. Love for architecture as a service (the spiritual) before love for beautifully shaped spaces and the acquisition of material wealth (the personal) thereby making a genuine and positive contribution to the development of the art and practice of architecture.
3. Development and practice links service with training in a continuous spiral to the end allowing horizontal dialogue throughout the path as opposed to vertical dialogue. *The numbers dictate.*
4. Shelter Agriculture is essential to settlement development i.e. a percentage of all residential building lots must be allocated for agricultural purposes.
5. Green Architecture principle in high-rise residential and commercial construction directing that a percentage at every floor level be utilized for plant or agricultural use.
6. High-rise development to be non-confrontational to nature. Inclined or stepped not vertical.
7. Location for service/training relevant to focus of specialization choice e.g. housing, schools.
8. Legal/activist vehicle formulated in order to provide immediate and long-term dissemination of information relevant to the specialization, further developing the service/practice, (the developmental nature of NGA) e.g. registered NGO or CBO.
9. Recognizing and vigorously promoting a Human Resource Management Policy which identifies the Full Cycle Of Human Development paying close attention to the Ripple Effect Theory (RET) and the Ripple Effect Model (REM) for research and development.
10. All efforts towards the solving of space problems will appreciate and include the usable existing natural growth experiences emanating from both planned and unplanned developments.
11. Gender issues will be given its just due e.g. parenting practices, domestic violence, etc.
12. The elements in this study/practice mandate close attention to the following factors: -
 

i. Socio-design.	ii. Socio-construction.	iii. Socio-legal.
iv. Socio-education.	v. Socio-transportation.	vi. Socio-management.
vii. Socio-dialogue.	viii. Socio-environment.	ix. Socio-psychological.
x. Socio-economic.		
13. Friends of Architecture and Natural Growth Architects must be prepared to receive basic and advanced training respectively in the following subject areas, whilst giving service in accordance to their level of competency: -
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design, Construction and Theory of Structures.</li> <li>• Law (both civil and criminal)</li> <li>• Social Psychology.</li> <li>• Environmental Psychology.</li> <li>• Pedagogy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer Literacy.</li> <li>• Non-Governmental Activity</li> <li>• Home Management.</li> <li>• Services.</li> <li>• Nature of Materials</li> </ul>
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14. Candidates for the study/practice of Natural Growth Architecture will have one or two of the following characteristics: -
  - A person with that inward force (love/desire) to solve space problems, too strong to sit out the classroom-training model.
  - A person with that inward force (love/desire) to solve space problems but without the financial capital to acquire the formal training in a classroom.
  - A person with that inward force (love/desire) to solve space problems but unhappy with the aloft image and detrimental aspects of architectural practice to date.

Signed .....DONALD BERMENT Secretary MAVAW.

*Yours In Nation Building*

Company No M 1799(95) Charitable Status No F (BUD):7/4/205

G.M. Co-ordinators: David Law, Johnny Bharath.

P.O.R.O.



## **Men Against Violence Against Women**

45 River Estate Circular, River Estate, Diego Martin, Trinidad.

Hot Lines : 637-0924, 668-5133. Fax : 623-0193.

Email : [mavaw@usa.net](mailto:mavaw@usa.net). Website : <http://mavaw.tripod.com>



**DIRECTORS :** Christopher Holder, *CHAIRMAN*. Donald Berment, *SECRETARY*. Desmond Persad, *TREASURER*.

**Date :** Tue/19/Nov/02.

**Our Ref. :** mavaw/SUR-P-1.

**Your Ref. :**

**President Ronald Venetiaan,  
Republic of Suriname,  
Kleine Combeweg 1,  
PARAMARIBO.**

**Subject : Men Against Violence Against Women Attendance At Congress In Suriname.**

Dear Mr. President,

First let me express my pleasure to have the opportunity to be in your beautiful Nation and my admiration for the Social Development work, your Government supports, as seen by the planned presence of so many of your Ministers at this historic Congress, "DEVELOPMENT = CHANGE, FROM WOMEN COUNSELING TO SYSTEM ORIENTED COUNSELING".

In my view, the Organisers of this Congress, have done a fantastic job, putting together the relevant topics and presenters, to best achieve understanding and appreciation of the Theme.

In Trinidad and Tobago, we also enjoy the keen interest of our Government towards addressing society's psycho social problems.

Please therefore find appended, the documents which describe the work of our Organisation, "Men Against Violence Against Women" ., one of the more aggressive, committed and focussed activists groups internally.

Also included, is a CD from our Tourism Development Company which will provide you with an overview of our Culture in Trinidad and Tobago.

I will be leaving your beautiful country on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Decembe 2002 at 9am. If you have the time maybe we can meet at your pleasure.

Thanking you in advance for your kind consideration.

.....Secretary.

Donald Berment,

***Yours In Nation Building***

**G.M. Co-ordinators : David Law, Johnny Bharath.**

**P.O.R.O.**

## User Registration Small and Medium Enterprises Form 2006

Website <http://www.smeXchange.com>

User Name	donalddbberment
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**Enter Your Registration Information**

Full Name	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Mr. First and Middle Names: Surname:
	<input type="radio"/> Donald Donat Berment
Job Position	Business Owner/Sole Proprietor
Email Address (business)	<a href="mailto:victorberment@yahoo.com">victorberment@yahoo.com</a> .
Company Name	Donald D. Berment, Housing Specialist/NGA.
Parent Company	N/A
Phone No	1 (868) 637-0924
Mobile Phone	1(868) 383-6184
Fax No	1 (868) 637-0924
Street Address	No 45 River Estate Circular
Street Address 2	River Estate
City	Diego Martin
State.	Trinidad and Tobago
Constituency	Diego Martin East
Geographic	West Indies in the Caribbean Sea Region
Website (Social Work)	<a href="http://www.mavaw.com">http://www.mavaw.com</a> - Email: <a href="mailto:mavawsec@yahoo.com">mavawsec@yahoo.com</a>

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**Short narrative on the nature of your business**



Having acquired training/experience in Architecture, Law, Home and Business Management and Social Psychology, a service as a Housing Specialist is offered which utilises all the training/experience ( Formal and Informal) obtained over the last thirty years alongside promoting the concept of Natural Growth Architecture (NGA)

This has been consolidated with a long term research project titled “The Social Effects of and Construction Methods Employed in Community Lifestyles and Low Cost Housing, Relevant to Modern Day Techniques, With an Accent on Tropical Architecture”. This Study utilised the RET (Ripple Effect Theory) and REM (Ripple Effect Model).



**Long narrative on the nature of your business**

I Studied Architecture with the International Correspondence Schools and stopped short of Final Exams when I realised that Programs in Architecture did not prepare Architects to fully understand the Psycho-dynamics of Space Use, i.e. how space affects human behavior and the factor of a dominant partner during the first client interview *I then decided to pursue a lifelong study of Architecture.*

Further, the aspect of Planned and Unplanned Development and its intimately connected relationship was also unavailable for Classroom Study, demanding an intense experiential thrust, from the community transport factor (pulling bull) to dysfunctional relationships (domestic violence and the use of the judicial process to achieve solutions) and the full consideration of nature in designs.

*In addition, the unplanned development in Planned Developments of Small and Medium Enterprise undertakings demanded a strong focus on local Business Management Training in order to satisfy the smooth, efficient operations of Housing Communities.*

As a consequence, knowledge was acquired on how to Register Individual Businesses and Companies, handle Income Tax bookkeeping for final submission to a qualified Accountant, prepare VAT Accounts and relate to personnel/staff concerns with National Insurance Benefits, Individual Income Tax Preparations and Peer Counselling with employee to employee and other relationships.

*My 8 years practicing Law as a Litigant in our local Courts, up to Court of Appeal level, successfully, allows me to provide a para-legal service to clients requiring liquor licences and to do the relevant research on legal problems to satisfy the preparation by a qualified Attorney at-Law for civil and criminal action in the Judicial system.*

**Products/Services Offered**



Design and Construction of your residence. Business Management as it relates to the duties to The Companies Registry, The Inland Revenue Department, The National Insurance Board, The Magistrates Court in Liquor Licensing Matters, The VAT Administration and the personnel records for final presentation to the Accountant to prepare Final Statements and Income Tax Statements. Research of legal problems to satisfy the presentation by an Attorney at-Law in the Judicial system. All such services provided under a Special Agency contract.

**Business Type**  
**Buyer or Supplier**

**Agent**  
**Supplier**

**Business Categories**

☐ Consultancy & Related Services

☐ Engineering & Construction

**Geographic Markets**

North America ☐ Caricom ☐  
☐ Worldwide ☐

**Current Customers**

Giulianos Limited, Food Fax Supermarket, Daniels Grocery, Welcome Inn Mini Mart, Emiliana Company Limited, Alec Food Mart, D-Edge Restaurant, PC Supermarket, Savers Choice Supermarket, Wang Li Supermarket, Kong's Café, Charlotte Street Mini Mart, MAAK's Trading, FLOS Caribbean Limited, Michelle's Sewing Shop, EXCEL Holdings, Lai King Restaurant, 'Ha Ha' Chinese Restaurant.

**Brand Names Offered**

Custom Designed Forms etc. for Customers.

**Principal Place of Business**

No 45 River Estate Circular, River Estate, Diego Martin

**Year Established**

November 30<sup>th</sup> 2004—No BN 82-270

**PAYE No. EO 766-00-1**

NIS Employer No. 119399—ID No. 19480522018.

**Place Of Incorporation**

Trinidad and Tobago, Companies Registry of Legal Affairs.

**Corporate Status**

Sole Proprietor

**Legal Representative/CEO**

Donald D. Berment (plan to study Law in 2006)



*Signed.....Donald D. Berment*

# PROPOSED

## PUBLICATIONS FROM RESEARCH.

1. My Research since 1974.
2. Letters Of concern (Love).
3. Planning Proposals.
4. Interior Design and Decoration Inputs.
5. Financial Recording System.
6. Home Managers (Owners) Manual.
7. Healthy Relationships Curriculum.
8. Parenting Without Tears.
9. Roots of Societal Violence—Understanding the BSD Syndrome.
10. Natural Growth Architecture—“The Book”.
11. Domestic Violence Awareness Handbook.

### **Disciplines Utilized During Research Period.**

1. Architecture.
2. Law.
3. Interior Design.
4. Home Management.
5. Business Management
6. Teaching/Lecturing.
7. Social Psychology.

NOTE: *Social Activism Was/Is Very Important To This Study. (The Developmental Component).*

